Grants for Widening National Highways in U.P.

*178. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance granted by Government to Uttar Pradesh for widening National Highways during the last three years; and

(b) the details of such funds utilized so far in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) the Central Government has sanctioned 27 works for widening the existing National Highways to 2/4 lanes at an estimated cost of Rs. 3348.64 crores in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) Eight works have been completed and the remaining 19 works are at various stages of progress. An expenditure of Rs. 432.78 crores has been incurred.

Decline in Sugar Production

†*179. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of sugar has decreased substantially in the country during April this year as compared to the same month of previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the existing stock of sugar in the country as compared to the previous year; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The production of sugar during April, 2002 was 14.67 lakh MTs as against 19.13 lakh MTs during the same months last year. However, the production during the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.